

Message Text

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ACTION AF-18

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C O N F I D E N T I A L LIBREVILLE 0595

USDOC FOR STEPHEN CONGER

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ETRN, PFOR, GB, US

SUBJ: PRESIDENT BONGO'S DESIRE TO PURCHASE DC-8 IN U.S.

REF: (A) LIBREVILLE 0594; (B) LIBREVILLE 0580

1. EXCHANGE OF CORRESPONDENCE QUOTED REFTEL WOULD SEEM
TO HAVE ELIMINATED ANY POTENTIAL OAU CRITICISM
OF THE SALE AND CLOSED THAT CHAPTER WITH REGARD TO THE
DC-8 PROBLEM.

2. WITH REGARD TO THE QUESTION RAISED BY COMMERCE
ACCORDING TO WHICH THE SECOND DC-8 WOULD ALSO BE OWNED
BY AFFRETAIR AND RHODESIAN-CONTROLLED, I CAN ONLY REFER
THE DEPARTMENT TO REF B CITING THE CONTRACT SIGNED WITH
UTA (COPY OF WHICH IS ON ITS WAY TO THE DEPARTMENT).

3. THE TWELVE-PAGE UTA CONTRACT SIGNED BY PRESIDENT
BONGO STATES INTER ALIA QUOTE THE GABONESE REPUBLIC HAS
ACQUIRED THE OWNERSHIP OF A DC-8/63CF AIRCRAFT IN
ORDER TO MEET THE NECESSITY FOR THE PRESIDENT OF THE
REPUBLIC TO HAVE AT HIS DISPOSAL A PLANE FOR OFFICIAL
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TRIPS AND INTERNATIONAL MISSIONS. GABONESE REPUBLIC

HAS ENTRUSTED TO UTA THE RESPONSIBILITY FOR MODIFYING THIS PLANE INTO A PRESIDENTIAL PLANE. THE GABONESE REPUBLIC WISHES THAT, WHILE TAKING INTO ACCOUNT THE PRIORITY NEEDS OF OFFICIAL MISSIONS, THE USE OF THE PLANE BE RENDERED AS ECONOMIC AS POSSIBLE BY BEING UTILIZED ON THE COMMERCIAL LINES OF UTA/AIR AFRIQUE IN CONFORMITY OF THE DISPOSITIONS OF THE TREATY OF YAOUNDE. THE GABONESE REPUBLIC DESIRES TO ENTRUST TO UTA THE TECHNICAL AND COMMERCIAL MANAGEMENT OF THE PLANE IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE FOLLOWING CONDITIONS:

ARTICLE 1 - PURPOSE OF CONTRACT: THE GABONESE REPUBLIC, OWNER OF THE DC-8/63 CF AIRCRAFT SERIAL NUMBER 46053, ENTRUSTS TO UTA WHICH IN TURN ACCEPTS THE TECHNICAL AND COMMERCIAL MANAGEMENT OF THE AIRCRAFT INCLUDING: THE LIGHT AND HEAVY MAINTENANCE AND THE UTILIZATION OF THE AIRCRAFT. UNQUOTE

4. COMMENT: THE TERMS OF THE ABOVE CONTRACT, WHICH WERE OFFICIALLY COMMUNICATED TO THE EMBASSY BY THE GOG, WOULD SEEM TO PROVIDE AS EXPLICIT ASSURANCES AS WE COULD HOPE TO OBTAIN THAT THE AIRCRAFT WILL BE OWNED BY THE GOG AND UTILIZED BY UTA ON REGULAR UTA/ AIR AFRIQUE COMMERCIAL ROUTES WHEN NOT USED PERSONALLY BY THE PRESIDENT.
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